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## RETAIL PRICES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1970

### Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services which affect a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of houses and flats, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, medical and health services, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is 1966-67 = 100.0.

### All Groups

There was an increase of 2.0 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from September quarter 1970 to December quarter 1970, the index number for All Groups rising from 111.1 to 113.3. For the twelve months ended December 1970 the All Groups increase was 5.0 per cent.

During the quarter under review, the Index increased in all State Capitals, the percentage increases being: Brisbane, Sydney, and Hobart, 2.0; Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide, 1.7; and the weighted average for the six State Capitals, 1.9.

Since the base year, 1966-67, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Sydney and smallest in Adelaide. Percentage increases for the various State Capitals from 1966-67 to December quarter 1970 were as follows: Sydney, 16.2; Perth, 13.5; Brisbane, 13.3; Melbourne, 12.6; Hobart, 12.4; and Adelaide, 11.8. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 14.0 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between September quarter 1970 and December quarter 1970 is given below.

### Food Group

The Food Group index increased from 110.5 to 112.8, a rise during the quarter of 2.1 per cent. The main price increases recorded were for beef and cereal products.

### Clothing and Drapery Group

Higher prices of menswear and womenswear were chiefly responsible for the rise of 1.6 per cent in the Clothing and Drapery Group, the index rising from 109.2 to 110.9.

### Housing Group

The increase of 0.8 per cent in the Housing Group index, from 115.9 to 116.8, was due mainly to a rise in private rents.

### Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The household Supplies and Equipment Group index increased by 0.9 per cent, from 106.5 to 107.5, because of price changes in household appliances and furniture and floor coverings.

### Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group index rose from 112.9 to 116.6, an increase of 3.3 per cent. The rise was chiefly attributable to increases in prices of petrol, tobacco and cigarettes, and hospital and postal charges.

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Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane  
(1966-67 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>						
1960-61 ..	84.9	93.1	84.6	95.5	83.1	87.1
1961-62 ..	85.2	94.4	86.3	97.0	85.6	88.4
1962-63 ..	84.6	94.6	88.5	96.9	86.3	88.7
1963-64 ..	86.7	95.3	89.2	95.9	86.8	89.6
1964-65 ..	92.2	96.6	91.5	96.8	90.4	93.0
1965-66 ..	98.4	97.8	97.3	98.8	95.5	97.5
1966-67 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68 ..	103.7	102.4	105.8	101.2	103.2	103.3
1968-69 ..	104.7	104.3	109.6	104.3	106.0	105.5
1969-70 ..	107.7	107.3	113.4	105.5	109.2	108.4
<u>Quarter</u>						
1969: December ..	106.9	107.0	113.0	105.2	108.5	107.9
1970: March ..	108.6	107.7	113.6	105.5	109.5	108.9
June ..	109.1	108.8	114.1	105.9	110.7	109.7
September ..	110.5	109.2	115.9	106.5	112.9	111.1
December ..	112.8	110.9	116.8	107.5	116.6	113.3
Percentage Increase on Previous Quarter						
<u>Quarter</u>						
1969: December ..	0.7	1.1	0.3	-	0.6	0.7
1970: March ..	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.9
June ..	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.7
September ..	1.3	0.4	1.6	0.6	2.0	1.3
December ..	2.1	1.6	0.8	0.9	3.3	2.0



Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities  
(1966-67 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average, Six State Capitals
<u>Year</u>							
1960-61 ..	89.6	89.5	87.1	89.8	87.9	90.3	89.2
1961-62 ..	89.9	89.8	88.4	89.5	88.2	90.7	89.6
1962-63 ..	90.4	89.7	88.7	89.1	88.7	90.7	89.8
1963-64 ..	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	90.6
1964-65 ..	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	94.0
1965-66 ..	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	97.4
1966-67 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68 ..	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	103.3
1968-69 ..	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	106.0
1969-70 ..	110.6	108.7	108.4	108.2	109.4	108.5	109.4
<u>Quarter</u>							
1969: December	109.6	108.3	107.9	107.3	108.7	108.1	108.7
1970: March ..	111.3	108.9	108.9	108.4	109.9	108.9	109.8
June ..	112.9	110.1	109.7	110.0	111.4	109.6	111.2
September	113.9	110.7	111.1	109.9	111.6	110.2	111.9
December	116.2	112.6	113.3	111.8	113.5	112.4	114.0

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1969	October 1970	November 1970	December 1970
<u>Cereal Products</u>		cents	cents	cents	cents
Bread, white (delivered)					
Unwrapped ..	2 lb loaf	19.0	19.0	19.0	20.0
Wrapped and sliced ..	2 lb loaf	23.1	24.0	24.0	25.0
Flour, plain ..	2 lb pkt	15.4	16.3	16.0	16.0
Flour, self-raising ..	2 lb	18.4	18.7	18.7	19.0
Biscuits, wheatmeal ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	17.7	18.4	19.4	18.8
Biscuits, milk arrowroot ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	18.3	19.1	19.1	18.9
Biscuits, dry ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	18.9	19.7	19.7	19.1
Oats, rolled ..	2 lb pkt	41.7	40.4	41.9	43.1
Rice ..	1 lb pkt	14.5	15.6	15.2	15.1
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered)	1 quart	19.2	20.0	20.0	20.0
Milk, powdered ..	12 oz tin	39.9	41.5	41.5	41.9
Cheese, cheddar, matured ..	8 oz pkt	32.7	33.0	32.8	33.2
Cheese, cheddar, processed ..	8 oz pkt	25.3	25.9	25.8	26.2
Butter ..	1 lb	53.1	53.5	53.5	53.8
Eggs (24 oz in carton) ..	dozen	63.7	52.0	57.1	56.0

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane (continued)

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1969	October 1970	November 1970	December 1970
		cents	cents	cents	cents
<u>Fruit and Vegetables</u>					
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz tin	32.0	34.0	35.0	35.2
Pears, canned ..	29 oz tin	32.1	34.0	35.0	35.2
Sultanas ..	1 lb pkt	37.0	40.7	40.6	41.1
Peas, green, canned ..	15½ oz tin	20.5	19.6	18.6	17.8
Peas, frozen ..	16 oz pkt	30.5	31.3	31.4	31.4
Potatoes ..	7 lb	35.3	61.7	54.5	44.3
Onions ..	1 lb	8.8	9.0	7.9	7.8
<u>Beverages</u>					
Tea ..	½ lb pkt	29.8	29.1	29.1	29.1
Coffee, instant ..	2 oz jar	44.4	44.2	41.3	42.9
Cocoa ..	8 oz pkt	34.3	42.6	42.7	42.7
<u>Other Food (excluding meat)</u>					
Sugar ..	4 lb pkt	42.2	42.1	41.8	41.9
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb tin	26.4	28.9	29.4	30.4
Jam, apricot ..	1½ lb tin	32.6	35.2	35.2	35.2
Jam, marmalade ..	1½ lb tin	28.6	28.8	29.1	28.7
Honey, liquid ..	16 oz jar	27.1	28.0	28.3	27.6
Peanut paste ..	12 oz jar	42.9	47.7	47.7	47.7
Beans, baked, canned ..	16 oz tin	16.6	18.1	17.0	18.3
Spaghetti, canned ..	16 oz tin	16.6	18.1	17.0	18.3
Margarine, table ..	1 lb	39.8	43.7	43.9	43.9
Sauce, tomato ..	10 oz bottle	22.6	22.5	22.5	23.0
Pickles, mustard ..	10 oz jar	24.2	24.4	24.4	24.4
Sardines, Norwegian ..	3¾ oz tin	16.8	17.6	17.6	17.6
Salmon, Australian, canned ..	16 oz tin	43.2	38.6	42.4	42.4
Soup, tomato ..	16 oz tin	18.0	17.9	18.9	19.1
			Quarter Ended December 1970		
<u>Meat</u>					
Beef, rib, roast (without bone)	1 lb	53.9		58.9	
" , steak, rump ..	1 lb	81.2		97.6	
" , steak, chuck ..	1 lb	50.3		58.2	
" , steak, blade ..	1 lb	60.7		69.9	
" , sausages ..	1 lb	27.5		31.9	
" , silverside, corned ..	1 lb	57.0		63.4	
" , brisket, corned ..	1 lb	42.4		47.6	
Mutton, leg ..	1 lb	34.2		37.0	
" , chops, loin ..	1 lb	32.1		35.5	
" , chops, leg ..	1 lb	33.7		35.7	
Lamb, leg ..	1 lb	49.9		52.2	
" , chops, loin ..	1 lb	51.9		54.5	
" , chops, leg ..	1 lb	52.0		54.4	
Pork, leg ..	1 lb	60.2		65.4	
" , loin ..	1 lb	59.1		65.4	
" , chops ..	1 lb	59.3		65.6	
Bacon, rashers, pre-packed ..	½ lb	49.5		49.1	